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An Inaugural Essay,

On

Gun Shot wounds,

of the Intestines,

Accompanied by a case

Submitted to the Medical Faculty

of the

University of Pennsylvania:

For the degree of

Doctor of Medicine,

By

Frederick Nash Ogden,

of Louisiana.—

Philadelphia January 1st 1829—

Before entering particularly on the subject of the nature and treatment of wounds of the intestines, I shall offer a few remarks on gun shot wounds in general. — The application of gun-powder to the art of warfare has added this species of accident to the already swollen list of sufferings to which flesh is heir — The wounds inflicted by the instruments of ancient warfare, such as arrows, spears and axes are placed under their appropriate heads of punctured, penetrating, & mixed wounds, while the injuries caused by this powerful agent of modern invention, differing in symptoms, & requiring a different mode of treatment, have been considered by Hunter and subsequent writers among the class of contused wounds. — By gun shot wounds we are understood to include all injuries caused by explosions by fire arms, shells, by splinters on board men of war &c &c — They may be considered as simples, when occurring with an injury of soft parts of ordinary importance, or compound when at the same time a bone has been fractured

a large artery or nerve wounded, or some important viscus complicated with the injury. — This name has been given to these accidents from the circumstance of their occurring in time of, & from the manner in which they are produced. It is a lamentable fact that the healing art, tho respected & studied from the earliest ages, did not keep pace with the spirit of improvement that stirred men on to make constant progress in the arts, & thus, make themselves liable thro their bold innovations to the most serious accidents. —

Thus at the close of the 14th century, when these accidents first occurred, from extreme ignorance, & the low state of surgical knowledge, we find that the greatest dread & consternation were spread among the surgeons & trembling soldiers, from a belief that there was no aye to pity nor arm to save them. — In the plenitude of their dread we see the once skillful army surgeon degrading his profession & resorting to prayers, charms, & incantations as the principal part of his treatment in this new species of wounds. — And in reading the philosophical

disquisitions of the writers of that day on this subject, we find more to amuse than to instruct us — They supposed from the livid appearances of the lips of the wounds, and from the which sometimes supervened, that they were certainly poisonous, & accordingly adopted their treatment to accidents of this nature — And in their attempt to account for this singular appearance of these wounds, they supposed that either the ingredients of the powder were poisonous, or that something similar to electrical violence was committed by the balls. — Paré tells us that while the king of France was besieging Turin, the besieged & the besiegers mutually believed that their enemies had poisoned their balls, so cruel & intractable were their wounds — But knowledge is the great corrector of superstition and it remained for modern surgeons, from the improvement they daily made not only in their own profession, but in Chemistry & the laws of projectiles, to explode at once the absurdity of

these doctrines, & to attribute the formidable conse-
quences of these injuries to the violence, contusion, & laceration
communicated to the wounded parts — Boyer in his
'Traité des maladies Chirurgicales,' says that the severe
contusion occasioned by gun-shot wounds forms their
characteristic difference from other wounds, & explains
the peculiar phenomena accompanying them —
This degree of contusion depends principally on the
violence with which the missile is sent; for as
Hunter has observed, the divided parts not giving way
equally to the rapidity of the dividing body, they must
be in proportion greatly bruised. This brings us now to
speak of the most distressing symptom accompanying
gun-shot wounds, & by which they are principally
to be distinguished from those arising from other accidents —
This is the disposition of the tract of the wound to throw
off a slough, by which a new & dangerous
train of symptoms present themselves, which if the
surgeon is not prepared to expect fatal consequences

[illegible]

from the circumstance of [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[

[illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] to the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

to the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] of the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] with the [illegible] [illegible] fluid [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] the [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the parts [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the cases of Hydrocele

after the introduction of [illegible] — [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] of the nature [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] — Our learned professor of surgery [illegible]

[illegible] on this subject [illegible] that [illegible]

of the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] to the [illegible] of the

[illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] arteries may [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] divided — [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] the carotid were divided the sufferer would immediately die. It may not be improper here to institute the inquiry whether a man would die from hemorrhage, were his femoral artery to be divided & left to bleed. [illegible] I should [illegible] expressly, a matter from analogy [illegible] unnecessary. Where the femoral large vessel — one hemorrhage — has profusely [illegible] time, when it ceased spontaneously — the animal seems gradually debilitated from the loss of a quantity of blood, but no further serious consequences [illegible] secondary causes. One experiment in attestation of a fact of this importance, we are aware, cannot go far towards establishing it [illegible] in to the subject not with a view of deriving any practical importance from establishing the fact, for no surgeon the centre of the life of his patient would

disgrace his profession, as to neglect to acquire a [illegible] general or [illegible] but merely to ascertain the truth and numerous anatomical facts. In the sciences of Anatomy & Physiology, as in every other science, we may mark many facts which are daily [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] to be explained. Of the many varieties noticed by all writers on the [illegible] the [illegible] between [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] to [illegible] [illegible] to our purpose to treat of them separately. We shall merely state that they may all be traced to the difference arising from the [illegible] of the body, &c. There is another very peculiar appearance frequently occasioned by [illegible] [illegible] from [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] to the nature of [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] by actually striking them or by passing near to them [illegible] them. The least kind of injury to the

one to which we have alluded was called wind-contusion— John Bell accounts for the wonderful tales that a man might be [illegible] by the wind [illegible] of a ball in this way. [illegible] men frequently fall on the field of battle, & are carried into the hospitals [illegible] unable to speak, when [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] examined [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] — Injuries [illegible] this way are sometimes [illegible] with the [illegible] manner of [illegible] or [illegible] is [illegible] to be noticed [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] may be [illegible] by a ball [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] supposed [illegible] blood extravasated into the [illegible] — that from a [illegible] in the belly the liver or spleen may burst & extravasated

[illegible] susceptibilities [illegible] than there is greater than [illegible] [illegible] before the brain and the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] — without any [illegible] [illegible] invariably say that [illegible] by the [illegible] [illegible] these [illegible] [illegible] improperly called [illegible] to be [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] to be attributed [illegible] [illegible] in some instances as Sir A. Cooper has observed [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] are more dangerous than those [illegible] external [illegible] as the muscles are reduced to a state of relaxation [illegible] from the [illegible] [illegible] We come now to speak

[illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] with the [illegible] subordinate relation [illegible] to the general system [illegible] the

[illegible]

is also a frequent consequence of gun shot wounds of the abdomen which should always be considered as being a proof of gangrenous inflammation of the sides of the intestine, or by the subsequent use of the bowels. Wounds of the intestines have generally been divided into simple & complicated; that is as there occur in them or without an injury of the muscular parts of the latter. Specimens have been made, some from a blow in a dog or from a fall. The intestines have been [illegible] taken place without any injury to the muscular coat of the abdomen. But in gun shot wounds [illegible] inflicted, there must always be an external wound. Injuries of the intestines are either as injured by a cut-lass or injurious to the mind of the ball, and we must consider them as taken place either in the first or second [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] to increase the suppuration, [illegible] preventing the wound-

[illegible] however [illegible]

[illegible] or serous matter or [illegible] air from the external [illegible]

[illegible] the [illegible] bed [illegible]

[illegible] immediately [illegible]

[illegible] increasing. — [illegible] are not to conclude

[illegible] the [illegible] has not been wounded. [illegible]

[illegible] immediately [illegible]

[illegible] matter [illegible] for it may [illegible]

[illegible] we will not be warned, [illegible] for some time [illegible] of the [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] injuries, viz [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] ~~when~~ in cases of injury of the intestines. — [illegible]

[illegible] tirely on the local or general symptoms

in forming our opinion of the extent of the injury, we must

division of the intestinal canal [illegible] to be considered as irreparable injuries [illegible] that the intestine [illegible] a diminution of its diameter at the place of the wound — [illegible] except that the [illegible]

Hence [illegible] — [illegible] [illegible] intestinal canal had [illegible] the [illegible] part [illegible] wounded but [illegible] the intestinal [illegible] considerable [illegible] the external wound [illegible] the [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

in a case [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] — [illegible]

[illegible] — [illegible]

[illegible] — [illegible]

[illegible]

Movement & On the Wheels & behind by Pneumatic shoulding
[illegible] Let contained towards a fine

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

was also found, & in a small pouch below the hole in the bone, & on the surface looking to this large cavity, was found a slug of this size, O, & two small shot — This slug had I imagine, struck the bone at the hole, & fractured it without passing through, & had injured the intestine in its passage, as the part injured seemed to be in a line corresponding with the slug hole in the side, & the hole in the bone — The lower of the two slug holes that communicated with each other, also communicated with the smaller cavity or the one situated in the hip. — This communication resulted from ulceration, & hence we may account for the passage of facal matter out of it. —